

Amendments to the Specification

Please **replace** paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] With reference to FIGS. 6 and 7, the bore 18 of the ferrule has a variable inner diameter profile, including a minimum diameter sufficient to receive the club shaft. At the ridge 30 of the ferrule, an inner diameter D_3 is provided, less than both the outer diameter D_1 and D_2 of the hosel. Here, inner diameter D_3 is about 11.35 mm. Thus, in this embodiment, the ferrule deflects as the ridge passes the locking rim 38 of the hosel and securely engages the outer surface of the hosel. The ferrule is provided with an exterior surface 50 (FIG. 5[0]) that is smoothly tapered across its longitudinal length, providing an aesthetic and functional transition between the club head and the shaft. The exterior surface can be provided with concave regions and/or raised regions to provide identifying indicia on the ferrule. The ferrule 18 is formed of a lightweight yet durable material, e.g., nylon, polycarbonate, and polyoxymethylene. Materials having a density less than about 2 g/cc and a modulus of elasticity no greater than about 3 GPa have been found to be effective. Optionally, a colorant can be added to the material. In the exemplary embodiment, the ferrule is formed of an acetal resin compound commonly known as Delrin[®], from E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co.